Expenditure on water and electricity facilities to Ministers

2158. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Members of the Union Council of Ministers enjoy water and electricity services without any limits;

(b) the amount paid during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 in respect of each service Member-wise; and

(c) the monthly average expenditure on each service per Member during the above period, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The relevant information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exemption from interest on the loans of the Agro Service Centres

2159. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that realising this fact that the Agro Entrepreneurs, related with the Government Scheme of Agro Service Centres (started in 1972) are facing untold hardships for no basic fault of their own, the Ministry had admitted that the interest on the loans of the Agro Service Centres be exempted and the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture in 1982 had requested the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister to instruct the commercial banks to waive the interest charges from the loans of Agro Service Centres;

(b) if so, whether the interest has been waived off by the Banks; and

(c) if not, what follow up actions have been taken up by the Ministry upto now to get it executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) In order to rehabilitate the sick Agro Service Centres, the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture had in 1982 requested the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister to direct the commercial banks to waive interest charges from such of the entrepreneurs who closed their Centres and were not in a position to revive them.

(b) and (c) It was decided after consideration not to issue the general directions to banks to waive off interest as banks cannot afford to write off interest unfirmly in all cases, So there is on general question of waiver of interest by banks.

Setting up of Agro-Service Centres

2160. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission had fixed up a target in 1970-71 to establish Ten thousand Agro Service Centres in the country to provide all the Agricultural requirements of the tenant farmers under one roof, at proper time, fair price and at their door steps;

(b) if so, whether Government had completed this target and the number of centres set up till date; and

(c) if not, what were the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir. However, the scheme of establishment of Agro Service Centres formulated in 1971-72 envisaged a target of 5000 Agro Service Centres till end of Fifth Plan period.

(b) No, Sir. 3036 Agro Service Centres were established upto 31st March 1979.

(c) Sufficient number of entrepreneurs were not forthcoming to set up Agro Service Centres and some of their projects were not found viable by the Banks.